

In observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is observed annually in October, listed below are local events and webinars that are free and open to the public.

Webinar Series – every Thursday in October 2011 (10/6, 13, 20 & 27), 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. The Employer Assistance and Resource Network (EARN) will host a series of free webinars on disability employment awareness. The topic for the first webinar on October 6 is "*Beyond Yellow Ribbons: Research on Employer Preparedness to Include Veterans with Disabilities in the Workplace.*" Registration is required. For more information and a listing of all other topics, visit [EARN Webinars](#).

Disability Awareness Conference – Tuesday, October 11, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD. The featured speaker is Cathy Raggio, Secretary of Maryland's Department of Disabilities. Attendees can also obtain resource information from exhibitors. For more information and to register for the event, visit [Disability Awareness October 11 Conference.pdf](#).

Webinar on Employment Initiatives – Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. (EST). Cornell University ILR School will host a presentation by Assistant Secretary of U.S. Department of Labor Kathleen Martinez on employment initiatives for people with disabilities. This webcast is free, however, registration is required at [KathleenMartinezWebinar.html](#).

USDA Lunch and Learn Series – Wednesday October 19 and 26, 12 noon, USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Building 003, Room 020, BARC – West, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD. This event is being held in observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. For more information contact: Jenny Allen, 301-504-6507, Jenny.Allen@ARS.USDA.GOV.

Intro to American Sign Language (ASL) Brown Bag Workshops – NASA HQ, Thursdays weekly, 12:00 p.m. -12:45 p.m. thru – Oct.27, 2011, Rm. 7H45. This workshop is a basic introduction to the art of communicating via American Sign Language (ASL). Led by a NASA employee, this "hands on" course will challenge your brain to learn a new language while developing an awareness of the community and culture of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. Pre-registration is mandatory! Contact Claudia.Silver-1@nasa.gov for more information.